



ADA COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aerial Mosquito Control Called Off Due to Bad Weather *Spraying now scheduled to resume tonight and Wednesday night*

(Boise, ID) – Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds and the danger of lighting prompted pilots with Vector Disease Control Incorporated to call-off last night's first aerial mosquito control mission in Ada County. Two planes carrying pesticide intended to kill mosquitoes in specifically designated areas of the county took off as planned at 9 p.m. last night from the Caldwell Industrial Airport. Both planes had started the spraying operation and sprayed over the Hidden Springs planned community, specifically designated areas of downtown Boise and north end neighborhood, and had just started operations to the west near Meridian and Eagle when inclement weather forced them to cancel the operation.

Weather permitting; pilots will resume their spraying schedule again tonight at 9 p.m.. Because of last night's delay, the aerial spraying schedule will extend into Wednesday night to ensure the 50,000 acre designated spray zone gets two consecutive pesticide applications. This schedule is expected to generate a 90% kill-rate on mosquitoes likely carrying the West Nile virus.

As previously stated, the prescribed pesticide being used appears on the Idaho Department of Agriculture's approved pesticide list and will be applied according to the product label as directed by State and Federal law. As prescribed, Dibrom is not harmful to humans, pets, birds, or fish. State and Federal health officials do not require anyone to take special safety instructions or precautions as a result of the application. (Note: People with special chemical sensitivities should consider taking their standard precautions when dealing with potential exposure to chemicals.)

The pesticide is sprayed into droplets 30 microns in size approximately 300-feet above the ground. While this microscopic dose of pesticide is enough to kill mosquitoes, it is not expected to widely harm larger insects within the designated spray-zone. Officials say the pesticide is active for only a short period of time and will likely be inert by the time Ada County residents wake to start their day the next morning.

At all opportunities, please remind your readers/viewers/listeners of the following information:

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS:

- You might hear planes flying in the designated spray zones
- You might see low-flying planes (approx. 300 ft. off the ground) in the designated spray zones
- You ARE NOT likely to feel the microscopic pesticide droplets falling in the air
- You ARE NOT likely to smell the pesticide

THINGS TO DO DURING AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS:

- Go about your regular routine
- Leave air conditioner units running
- There is no need to close doors or windows
- At its rate of application, the pesticide is NOT harmful to humans, pets, birds, fish or other large insects

NOTE: It would be prudent for people with known chemical sensitivities to stay indoors and take precautionary measures (close their windows/doors, turn air conditioning off, etc.)

Anyone who would like more information about the aerial mosquito control plan is encouraged to log on to the Ada County website at: www.adaweb.net and click on the West Nile Surveillance box in the 'County Spotlight' section on the homepage.

Currently, Idaho is the state with the most reported human cases of West Nile with 329 Idahoans testing positive for the virus. 79 Ada County residents have tested positive with 7 of those people suffering from the more serious neuroinvasive infection that usually requires hospitalization. To date, six Idahoans have died from the virus.

For personal protection, people are advised to:

- Insect-proof their homes by repairing or replacing screens
- Reduce standing water on their property that provides mosquito-breeding habitat, such as Birdbaths and decorative ponds
- Cover up exposed skin when outdoors
- Apply insect repellent approved by the EPA to exposed skin and clothing. Follow instructions on the product label, especially for children
- Avoid mosquitoes when they are most active at dawn and dusk